PEREZ Genealogy File

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PEREZ Family

AN old Spanish name which should not be overlooked in any work treating of worthy and distinguished families that settled in Louisiana during the colonial period is that of Perez, borne by as representative a Hispanic gentleman as ever came out of the ancient kingdom of Leon and Castille. Don Manuel Perez, who introduced it in Louisiana, was born in Zamorra, Spain, in 1735, of a noble family.

Don Manuel came to the Spanish colony on the Mississippi in 1769, with General Alessandro O'Reilly, and formed part of his brillant following, composed of courtly and polished *hidalgos*, among whom the Cruzats, Gayarrés, Almonesters, Alpuentes, Ramos, Navarros, and others as blue-blooded were conspicuously included. It was Spaniards like Don Manuel Perez that, by their affable, congenial and sympathetic natures, contributed very materially in softening the rancor and in healing the deep wounds which O'Reilly's merciless attitude in 1769 toward the most popular sons of old New Orleans, had left in many Gallic hearts.

Governor Unzaga's velvety touch and his commiseration for the friends and relatives of la Frénière, Noyan, Villeré and the other slain patriots, was undoubtedly of some influence in extinguishing the smouldering fires of public resentment against Spanish domination, but the spirit of friendship and good fellowship displayed by Don Manuel Perez and men of his stamp, toward a suspicious and rebellious people who had been forcibly made to accept an alien flag, went far in cementing affections that, at first, refused to be joined to one another.

Could any of the resentful population of the capital city of Louisiana look upon Don Manuel Perez as a Spaniard, and therefore an enemy, when he had shown his affection

for them by choosing, in 1776, Jeanne Catherine Dubois, a French matron of New Orleans ,as his lawfully-wedded wife? Her parents, Joseph Gabriel Dubois and Louise Elizabeth Boni, were known to every citizen of the town. Jeanne Catherine, when she married Don Manuel Perez, was a young widow, having buried, some time previous, her first husband, Louis de la Lande de Ferriere (q. v.), of ancient lineage, She was perhaps descended from that venerable and distinguished du Bois family of France, whose earliest known progenitor was Macquaire du Bois, Count of Ronsay, living in the early part of the twelfth century, two of whose lineal descendants, Louis and Jacques du Bois, Hugenot refugees, had sought religious freedom in America and settled at Kingston, New York, during the second half of the seventeenth century.

Don Manuel Perez was a soldier and with his sword he meant to achieve success in Louisiana, his newly-adopted country. The opportunity of so doing soon presented itself. In 1779, Don Bernardo de Galvez had raised the banner of Spain and called to the colors all the manhood of Louisiana, to be led by him against their hated English neighbors. His king had recognized the new American republic, fighting for its life against tremendous odds, and had become the ally of George Washington and his revolted colonists. Captain Perez, who was then in command of the second company of grenadiers, and who, before coming to Louisiana had been garrisoned for six years and eight months in Oran and had participated in the campaign against Portugal in 1762, went at once to the front and did his share in driving out the British from their southern strongholds. We find him among the attacking force at Fort Bute, at the siege of Baton Rouge, at the siege of Mobile, and before Pensacola. His promotion for meritorious service eventually followed.

In 1787, Don Estevan Miro, successor of Governor Galvez, appointed Don Manuel Perez, then a captain in the Mixed Regiment of the colony, lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana, a very important and honorable office. Perez assumed his office at St. Louis on November 27th of the same year, succeeding Don Francisco Cruzat. During the four years and eight months that he managed the affairs of

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Perez Family

the Illinois country, peace abided in Upper Louisiana. His administration was an uneventful one. Perez was well liked by the people he ruled and among his closest friends was August Chouteau, the New Orleans Créole who was one of the founders of St. Louis in 1764. The old records of that city show that the lieutenant-governor and the French merchant and colonizer, had large business transactions together, that undoubtedly proved profitable to both Perez and Chouteau. On July 29, 1792, Don Manuel Perez gave up his lieutenant-governorship to Captain Zénon Trudeau, who had been appointed to this office by Governor Carondelet. But if Miro had recognized Don Manuel's merit in entrusting the safety of Upper Louisiana to his keeping, the Baron de Carondelet, his successor, did as much for Perez when the latter returned to New Orleans in 1792. A commission as Lieutenant-Colonel in His Catholic Majesty's army awaited the former lieutenant-governor as a reward for his achievements. He died in New Orleans in 1814.

From the marriage of Don Manuel Perez to Jeanne Catherine Dubois issued six children. Manuel Cirillo Perez, the eldest, married in New Orleans, June 24, 1801, Madeleine Félicité Toutant de Beauregard. She was born in New Orleans April 8, 1782, where she died June 27, 1817. Her parents were Eli Toutant de Beauregard and Marie Félicité Durel. The nuptials of Manuel Cyrillo Perez to Mademoiselle Toutant de Beauregard brought forth four children: (a) Félicité Amanda Elias Perez, born July 3, 1802; (b) Jeanne Aurore Perez, born in 1805, who became the wife of a Mr. Grey; (c) Victoria Lodoiski Perez, born April 7, 1807, who married Fernando Gayoso de Lemos, son of Governor Manuel Luis Gayoso de Lemos and Margaret Cyrilla Watts, and left issue; and (d) Manuel Florencio Perez, born July 28, 1809.

The remaining children of Don Manuel Perez and Jeanne Catherine Dubois were: Stephen Perez, who died young; Martine Elizabeth Perez, whose husband was Antoine de Saint Maxent; Céleste Perez, who became Mrs. Joseph Hyacinthe Chalon; Marie Rose Perez, who married Jacques Guison, and Eugénie Perez whose wife was the Sieur Favre d'Aunoy.

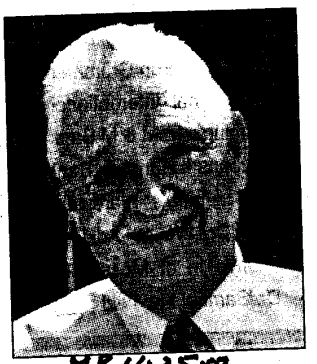
RIVARD Family

ON the earliest map of New Orleans and its surrounding territory appears the name of Antoine Rivard (also known as la Vigne), who, in 1721, owned a plantation on Bayou Saint John, or the *Ruisseau de Saint-Jean*, as this picturesque watercourse was then designated. This Antoine Rivard had come from Ile Dauphine, in Canada, and at the time of the Louisiana census of 1721, lived on his Bayou Saint John concession with his wife and his six children. He then owned eleven negro slaves, two Indian vassals, four horses and thirty heads of horned cattle.

His family was an ancient one in *Nouvelle France*, where it established itself in the *seigneurie* of Batiscan, parish of *Saint-François-Xavier*. The Rivards were enterprising merchants and fur traders, whose birch bark canoes, manned by daring *voyageurs* and Indian auxiliaries, penetrated the then practically unknown rivers of the North Country and visited such early French posts as Michilimackinac and Detroit at regular intervals.

In the colonial archives of Quebec are found many official permissions granted by the French governors to members of that family, whereby they were authorized to leave Quebec on important trading missions. The first of the Rivard name mentioned in *Nouvelle France* is Nicolas Rivard, Sieur de la Vigne, who, on February 18, 1660, made a certain contract with Jean Gabriel, *dit* Nadaud, before Claude Merlin, royal notary at Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

The Canadian Rivards prospered as a result of their enterprises and in 1721 many of them, close relatives of Antoine Rivard, the first of their name in Louisiana, were included among the notable inhabitants of the Seignory du Batiscan in the parish of Saint-François-Xavier. Among



MP 11-25-07

PEREZ

Rev. Bobby Louis Perez, 80, died Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, at his home in Pascagoula.

He was born July 25, 1927, in Gulfport and had been an ordained Assembly of God minister for more than 40 years.

Rev. Perez was a veteran of the Unites States Coast Guard (Merchant Marine), and the U.S. Army. He was a graduate of Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pa., was a member of the Pascagoula Lion's Club, a long-time organizer for the Boy Scouts of America and served Mexico and several other Latin American countries with his missionary work for more than 45 years.

Rev. Perez was preceded in death by his father and mother, Mr. Louis and Mrs. Ethel Travis Perez; his son, Robert Perez; and a brother, Vincent Perez.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mrs. Anna Evans Perez of Pascagoula; three daughters and sons- in-law, Diane and Fred Waters of Pascagoula, Mary and Mike Boone of Houston Texas, and Patricia and Craig Wilde of Mandeville, La.; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Joyce and Rev. Rudolph Brooks and Delores and Carl Woodrig; brother and sister-in-law, Douglas and Shirley Perez; nine grandchildren, Cody and Kaycee Waters, Allen and Robyn Forsman, Amy and Frank Pearson, Allison and Toben DuBose, Jody and Dean Williams, Jennifer and Travis Scott, Rebecca Boone, Henry and Shannon Waters and Joshua Boone; 13 great-grandchildren with one more on the way and numerous nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Nov. 26, 2007, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, Miss. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at 10 a.m. from the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Eugene Eubanks and the Rev. Rudolph Brooks officiating. Interment will follow in Griffin Cemetery in Moss Point.

If friends prefer, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Hospice of Light at 2101 Hwy. 90 Gautier, MS 39553. The family would like to offer a special thank you to Dr. Edgar Hull, Angie Dunn, R.N., and all of the nurses and staff of The Hospice of Light.

Arrangement by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.